

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the Official Action provided on July 7, 2004, and for the acknowledgement of receipt of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 30, 2003, by return of the form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgement of Applicant's Claim of Priority and receipt of the Certificated Copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Further, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 25-39 are allowable, and that claims 12, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter, on page 6 of the Official Action.

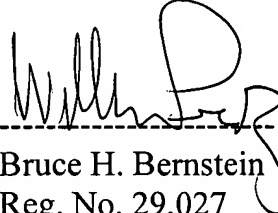
Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 7, 14-17, 21, 33, 37, 39 will have been amended, claim 12 will have been canceled as a result of the subject matter thereof being combined with claim 1. Further claims 22-24 will also have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-11, 13-21, 25-39 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claim 1 in order to incorporate claim 12 therein which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Further, claims 14 and 15, which also have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter, respectively have been rewritten into independent form according to the Examiner's suggestion on page 6 of the Official Action. Further, Applicant has amended several other claims to clarify their language.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 12, 14, and 15 of the application and the rejection to claims 1-11, 13, and 16-21 which are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from presently amended claim 1.

Applicants expressly do not acquiesce in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections and have rewritten the objected to claims into independent form only to expedite allowance of the application.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshio MAESATO



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

RN 33630

October 7, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191